



This Month in Assessment – November 2017

- November Webinars**
- Passwords**
- Smarter Balanced**
- SCILLSS**
- ACT**
- ACCESS for ELLs**
- NAEP**
- 2018 Conference**
- Test Portal Links**
- Help Desk #s**
- STC Contact Updates**
- Contact Us!**

	ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency (ELP)	CRT-ALT Alternate Science	CRT Science	MSAA Alternate English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	SBAC ELA and Math	ACT with Writing ELA and Math
2017-2018 Statewide Assessment Calendar*						
Dates:	Dec. 6–Jan. 31	Feb. 20–Mar. 27	Mar. 1–Mar. 27	Mar. 19–May 4	Mar. 21–May 25	Initial: Mar. 20 Make Up: Apr. 24 Emergency: May 8
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11	✓			✓		✓
12	✓					

*[NAEP Schedule of Events](#)

November Live Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
November 6, 2017 3:00 – 4:00 PM	ACT Hosted Webinar ACT Accommodations and Supports	Registration link to be emailed to ACT TCs
November 13, 2017 3:30 – 4:30 PM	Accessibility Series ACCESS for ELLs	Accessibility Series
November 16, 2017 2:00 – 3:00 PM	ACT Hosted Webinar Q&A Session on Test Administration	Register
November 22, 2017 3:30-4:30 PM	Monthly Data and Assessment PLC November Topic: Smarter Balanced Digital Library	Register on the Teacher Learning Hub
November 28, 2017 3:30 – 4:30 PM	This Month in Assessment Special Edition: ACCESS for ELLs	ACCESS for ELLs

Webinar Recordings:

Recordings of live webinars can be found on the OPI website at this link: [Assessment Webinars and Training](#).

Passwords

Many of the MontCAS programs require separate passwords to access test management sites, training materials, and test results. The following is a list of programs that require separate passwords:

- **Smarter Balanced** test administration, administration certification, interim tests, and test results
- **Smarter Balanced Digital Library** of formative assessment processes
- **CRT and CRT Alt** test results
- **ACT Plus Writing** test administration, reports, results
- **MSAA** (Multi State Alternate Assessment) test administration and training, results, and student reports
- **Access for ELLs 2.0** Test Administrator (TA) training, Assessment Management System, WIDA Access Placement Test (W–APT), results reports
- **MontCAS Online Reporting** non-participation and testing irregularity reports and nonstandard accommodations requests

**Need help with
passwords?
Click here to contact
us.**

New Test Coordinator?

Contact the OPI Assessment Division to be added as a user on the statewide assessment platforms.
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov or 844-867-2569.

SMARTER BALANCED

ELA and Mathematics

New Test Coordinator? Contact the OPI Assessment Division to be added as a user to TIDE (Test Information and Distribution Engine).

Online Systems

All online systems are now live and ready for optional interim testing. Students have been uploaded by the OPI so educators can utilize the interim assessments. These assessments can assist teachers in identifying student strengths and weaknesses and can be useful in modifying curriculum to meet those needs. For more information on the interim assessments, please see the [Interim Assessment tab](#) on the OPI website.

***Reminder:** User passwords and security questions from last year were reset on October 16, 2017. Please set up a new password for the 2017-2018 school year. When logging into the [AIR portal](#) for the first time this year, click on the “Request a new one for this school year” link. If you are a new Test Coordinator this year and need to be added as a user to the AIR portal, contact the OPI Assessment Division at 844-867-2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

New this year – Desmos calculators

Smarter Balanced has partnered with Desmos to include new calculators that are free to students and include cutting-edge accessibility features. Students who are visually impaired or blind have the same opportunities as their peers to use the online calculators. See this [Fact Sheet](#) for more information. The Smarter Balanced Desmos calculators are free to download for use during instruction and on personal devices.

SCILLSS

Strengthening Claims Based-Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large Scale Science Assessments

OPI to Begin Work on New, Large Scale Science Assessment

The Assessment Division is launching its work toward a new large-scale science assessment with its Theory of Action face-to-face meeting in Helena on November 13.

In 2016, the US Department of Education (US DOE) awarded an Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) to the “Strengthening Claims-Based Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large-Scale Science Assessments” (SCILLSS) project. Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska were identified as state partners for this work. The multi-state SCILLSS grant will help the OPI identify a “Theory of Action” and framework using principled design approaches to create measureable and useful scores from defined assessment claims. In addition, the SCILLSS grant will help the OPI leverage work from other states and vendors while building our local capacity.

Montana will work toward a comprehensive system of assessments for science through a staged process which requires significant input from stakeholders. To support our end goal (identifying meaningful and actionable data to monitor progress over time), the OPI will share its draft “Theory of Action” for comment.

The meeting will include members from the SCILLSS project, OPI Staff and members of the external Science Partner Task Force. This will be the first of many meetings to come regarding this important topic. For questions about the Science Partner Task Force or to get involved, please contact Ashley McGrath at amcgrath@mt.gov or 406-444-3450. For more information about SCILLSS, please visit the [US DOE website](#).

ACT with Writing

ELA and Mathematics

Things to do this month

- Beginning November 6, 2017, Test Coordinators will begin managing participation and shipping dates in Pearson Access (PA Next). Management in PA Next will be required this year. The deadline date for this activity is December 1, 2017. Watch for upcoming information from ACT State Testing.
- November 6, 2017 through February 2, 2018 - The window for requesting ACT approved accommodations on the ACT for eligible examinees through the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA). Watch for more detailed information from ACT State Testing and find it on the [State Testing website](#).
- Load students and instructors into ACT Online Prep (AOP). Instructions for AOP are below.
- Attend the ACT hosted webinars on November 6 and November 16, 2017. See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

ACT Online Prep (AOP)

The ACT Online Prep platform is available to begin loading student and instructor records. New administrators for ACT received an email from noreply@onlineprep.act.org with instructions for establishing your account. Returning administrators did not receive an activation email. Your login credentials from last year will provide access to the platform.

Instructions for setting up students and instructors in AOP can be found in the document [ACT Online Prep Administration User Guide](#). Training videos are also available on the [ACT State Testing website](#).

For further questions, please contact ACT Online Prep at 319-337-1429.

ACT State Testing Website

The State Testing website helps ACT Test Coordinators focus on tasks for each stage of the testing program. On the site there are outlines of the information you'll need for each stage. The stages include:

- Orientation
- Configuration
- Verification
- Preparation
- Administration
- Transportation
- Interpretation

We are in the first stage, 'Orientation'. Districts and schools should be focusing on becoming familiar with the testing program, the [Schedule of Events](#) and selecting testing staff.

Also note "[What's New With ACT Testing?](#)", on the [State Testing website](#). This year, ACT is introducing English learner (EL) supports. Qualifying EL students will earn college-reportable ACT scores. The supports are designed to help EL students accurately demonstrate what they have learned in school. Like accommodations, these supports will need to be managed through the Test Accessibility & Accommodations System (TAA). For more information, see [ACT Policy for English Learner Supports Documentation](#) on the ACT State Testing website.

ACCESS FOR ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Things to do this month

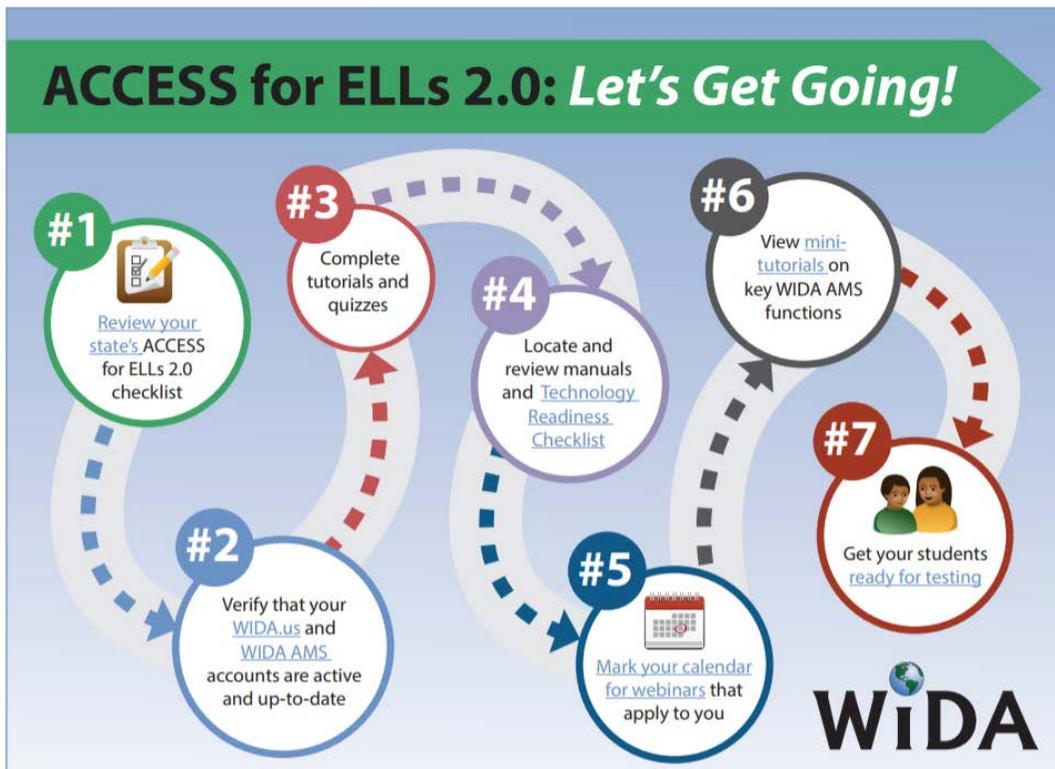
- Attend the webinars on November 13 and November 28, 2017. See page 2 of this newsletter for the links to attend these webinars.

Testing Calendar

Test Cycle	Testing Specifics	Start Date	End Date
Pre-Testing	OPI Loads Pre-ID File into AMS	Fri 10/28/17	Fri 10/28/17
	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Test Sessions	Fri 11/3/17	Wed 1/31/18
	Districts Receive Test Materials	Tue 11/28/17	Tue 11/28/17
During Testing	Test Window	Wed 12/6/17	Wed 1/31/18
	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in AMS	Tue 11/28/17	Wed 1/24/18
Post Testing	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC	Wed 2/7/18	Wed 2/7/18
	Districts Receive Reports, Printed and Online	TBD	TBD

On Friday, November 3, 2017, the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) will open for districts to begin test preparation activities for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test administration. The OPI has completed the initial upload of English learners identified as of October 27, 2017 to the WIDA AMS.

This resource from the [Montana page](#) on the WIDA website has links to essential test preparation resources: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0: [Let's Get Going](#).



Need Help? Contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or 1-866-276-7735



9/5/17

NAEP Results

We anticipate results for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as *The Nation's Report Card* sometime in the spring of 2018. This vital state-level data collection is conducted every two years and provides Montana with information on how our students perform compared to other jurisdictions. As part of the NAEP 2017 program, students participated in mathematics, reading, and writing assessments at grades 4 and 8.

In 2017, NAEP selected roughly a third of our public schools and of the sampled students, approximately 80% were tested with tablets and the remaining 20% were tested with the paper and pencil version of the test. Due to the competing needs of the NAEP program, some extra time was needed to analyze the different modalities (tablet and paper) and to ensure the NAEP trend line was preserved.

View this [YouTube video](#) for a quick overview of the transition to digital testing via tablets.

Below are some frequently asked questions about NAEP 2017. Should you have any questions about the release, please contact Ashley McGrath at amcgrath@mt.gov or 406.444.3450.

Q: What is the NAEP Assessment?

A: NAEP, or the National Assessment of Educational Progress, is often called the "Nation's Report Card." It is the largest continuing and nationally representative test of what our nation's students know and can do. It is used to examine trends across the nation in order to help states make decisions that help improve instruction.

Q: Why is NAEP moving to tablets for most students?

A: Tablets allow NAEP to administer new types of test items, including simulations and scenarios that add depth to our understanding of what students know and can do. Many states also administer computer-based assessments. This also helps NAEP leverage the increasingly important role digital tools play in today's classrooms and assessments.

Q: Why is NAEP administering paper tests to some students?

A: NAEP will examine whether results from paper tests and tablet tests are comparable in order to understand how to report NAEP trend results for mathematics and reading. This also allows NAEP to examine comparability across testing modes and to understand how to report trend results.

Q: Will I get to see individual student or school results?

A: No. There are no individual student results or school results for NAEP. To explore NAEP questions, visit the [NAEP Questions Tool](#), sample test [Booklets](#), or the [NAEP website](#). The 2017 results for the state will be released in early spring of 2018.

2018 Assessment Conference

Making a Difference with Data

Save the Date for “Making a Difference with Data”

The locations and dates have been set for the 2018 Assessment/Data Conference:

- Billings: Thursday and Friday, February 8-9, 2018
 - Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center
 - 406-248-7151, Room Block: OPI Assessment
- Helena: Monday and Tuesday, February 12-13, 2018
 - Radisson Colonial Hotel
 - 406-443-2100, Room Block: OPI Assessment

Online Assessment System Links

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and W-APT Screener, English Language Proficiency Screener

- Training and online resources: www.wida.us
- Assessment Management System: www.wida-ams.us
- [OPI ELP page link](#)

Smarter Balanced

- Assessment system link: <http://mt.portal.airast.org/>
- [OPI Smarter Balanced page link](#)

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Assessment Management System: www.msaaassessment.org
- [OPI MSAA page link](#)

ACT with Writing

- Assessment Management Link: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/montana.html>
- [OPI ACT page link](#)

MontCAS Assessment Help Desk Contact Information

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and W-APT English Language Proficiency Screener

- WIDA Help Desk Phone Number: 866-876-7735
- WIDA Help Desk Email: help@wida.us
- WIDA AMS Help Desk Phone: 855-787-9615
- WIDA AMS Help Desk Email: WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com

Smarter Balanced and Science CRT and Alt Service Desk

- Phone: 888-792-2741
- Email: montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Phone: 866-834-8879
- Email: MSAAServiceCenter@MeasuredProgress.org

ACT Plus Writing

General Inquiries

Phone: 800-553-6244, Ext. 2800

Email: [Contact Form](#)

Accommodations Questions

800-553-6244, Ext. 1788

ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Updating System Test Coordinator Contact Information

If a district has a new System Test Coordinator (STC) this school year, contact information may be updated by phone or online form (links below). Assignment of STCs is a decision made by the county superintendent. OPI may confirm new STCs and changes.

- Assessment contact: Marcy Fortner, Administrative Assistant, 406-444-3511, mfortner@mt.gov
- Online form for new test coordinators: [form link](#)
- Online form for existing system test coordinator contact updates: [form link](#)

Assessment Contacts

Assessment Division

Toll-free Phone:

844-867-2569

[OPI Assessment Help Desk](#)

[Email](#)

**Not sure who
to contact?
Click here**

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